

## **Scientific Research Plan**

### **Guidance on Writing and Submission**

This document summarizes information required in a scientific research plan when submitting as part of the application package for a scientific research permit (SRP) or letter of acknowledgement (LOA) of scientific research.

As defined in 50 CFR § 600.10, a scientific research plan is a detailed, written formulation, prepared in advance of the research, for the accomplishment of a scientific research project. At a minimum, a sound scientific research plan should include:

- (1) A [title and] description of the nature and objectives of the project, including the hypothesis or hypotheses to be tested.
- (2) The experimental design of the project, including a description of the methods to be used, the type and class of any vessel(s) to be used, and a description of sampling equipment.
- (3) The geographical area(s) in which the project is to be conducted.
- (4) The expected date of first appearance and final departure of the research vessel(s) to be employed, and deployment and removal of equipment, as appropriate.
- (5) The expected quantity [weight] and species of fish to be taken and their intended disposition.
  - Note: If significant amounts of a managed species or species otherwise restricted by size or sex are needed, an explanation of such need is also required.
  - Note: Applicants are in the best position to make estimates of catch. If estimates are a guess (i.e. not based on actual catches for similar research already completed, etc.), state the method of estimation used. Keep in mind numbers are not set in stone, but are required for projecting impacts on groundfish. Omission of these catch estimates will likely slow or preclude issuance of your SRP or LOA.
- (6) The name, address, and telephone/fax number of the sponsoring organization and its director.
- (7) The name, address, and telephone/fax number, and curriculum vitae of the person in charge of the project and, where different, the person in charge of the research project on board the vessel.
  - Note: If there is a different person who is responsible for ensuring that the SRP application process is completed, also provide that person's name, address, and telephone/fax number.
- (8) The identity of any vessel(s) to be used including, but not limited to, the vessel's name, USCG identification numbers, official documentation number and IRCS, home port, and name, address, and telephone number of the owner and master.

#### **IMPORTANT:**

**KEEP A COPY OF YOUR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PLAN ON BOARD PARTICIPATING  
VESSELS WHILE RESEARCH IS BEING CONDUCTED!**